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Letter dated 22 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to draw your attention to a number of provocative statements and illegal actions of Turkey and the Turkish-Cypriot leadership during the so-called "celebrations" of the twenty-third anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

On 20 July 1997, during these "celebrations" a re-enactment of the 1974 Turkish invasion took place, along with military parades. The deputy Prime Minister of Turkey, Mr. Bullent Ecevit, who visited the occupied areas of Cyprus for this occasion, along with a high-level delegation that included other Ministers of the Turkish Government, was reported to have stated, inter alia, that "even if foreign circles and the Greek Cypriots continue to speak of a solution for Cyprus, actually the solution was reached with the Turkish Peace Operation in Cyprus". In this regard it should be pointed out that Mr. Ecevit was the Prime Minister of the Turkish Government which staged the invasion in 1974.

Another ominous action by Turkey is reflected in a "joint declaration" issued by Mr. Ecevit and the leader of the Turkish-Cypriot community, Mr. R. Denktash. This "joint declaration" covers defense, foreign, security, financial and economic policies, to be applied gradually as a step towards the integration of the occupied areas of Cyprus with Turkey.

These actors and statements are yet another manifestation of the continued violation by Turkey of its international obligations towards the Republic of Cyprus. It is also in contravention of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant United Nations resolutions on Cyprus, mainly Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984), by which the Council deplored and condemned the secessionist entity, declaring it legally invalid,

and called upon all States to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and not to facilitate or in any other way assist the said secessionist entity.

Moreover, it should be noted that these illegal and secessionist actions are taken in the name of the perceived role of Turkey as a guarantor of the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus.

In addition to the above-mentioned actions, new violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish air force, were recorded on 19, 20 and 21 July 1997.

On 19 July, between 1008 and 1726 hours, a G-4, a CN-235 and two C-130 Turkish military aircraft violated the Nicosia flight information region and the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 20 July, between 0726 and 1740 hours, a CN-235, a G-4 and a CN-35 Turkish military aircraft also violated the Nicosia flight information region and the airspace of the Republic.

Finally, on 21 July, at 0815 hours, two G-4 military aircraft violated the Nicosia flight information region and the airspace of the Republic. On the same day, between 1310 and 1350 hours, two RF-4 military aircraft entered the Nicosia flight information region and flew over the Kormakitis and Karpasia areas.

Such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the airspace of the Republic are in violation of international air traffic rules and seriously endanger civil aviation flights over Cyprus.

Furthermore, between 18 and 21 July 1997, two frigates, two torpedoes and two submarines of the Turkish navy docked in the port of Kyrenia, which was declared closed by the Government of Cyprus to all vessels under law 265 of 3 October 1974, following the Turkish invasion and occupation of the northern part of the island.

These recent events and actions by Turkey and the Turkish-Cypriot leadership, take place at a most sensitive period, just a few days after the first round of the United Nations-sponsored direct talks between the two Cypriot communities at Troutbeck. Such actions could adversely affect the good climate that has emerged from these talks and seriously impede the efforts towards the search for a solution to the Cyprus problem, at a time of increased interest and involvement on the part of the international community. Once again Turkey has demonstrated its lack of political will for a solution to the Cyprus problem and has revealed its real objectives, which aim at consolidating the de facto division and partition of the island for its own selfish interest.

I wish to stress, in the strongest possible terms, my Government's protest against these condemnable and illegal actions perpetuated by Turkey in Cyprus. After 23 long years of occupation and mass violations of the human rights of the people of Cyprus, one third of the island's population is still prevented by the

Turkish occupation forces from returning to their homes in the northern part of the island and is subject to the continuous provocation of the Turkish side.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus once again expresses its sincere wish that a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem, based on the relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations, be found as soon as possible and, to that end, calls upon the international community to prevail on Turkey and the Turkish-Cypriot leadership with a view to their abandoning the present divisive course and actions and demonstrate the necessary political will for the attainment of such a solution.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos ACHATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative